

Achievement Award of the National Wildlife Federation, the Smithsonian Institution's James Smithson Medal, World Wildlife Fund Gold Medal, Linnaeus Gold Medal from the Swedish Academy of Sciences, and was inducted into the United States Conservation Hall of Fame, all for his work on behalf of the natural world.

Founded in 1985, the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History, located in Peterson's hometown of Jamestown, NY is an educational institution charged with preserving Peterson's lifetime body of work and making it available to the world for educational purposes. Housed in its archives are thousands of items ranging from paintings, original graphic art renderings, photographs, films, manuscripts and correspondence that tell the story of Peterson's career.

The Roger Tory Peterson Institute plays host to visitors from around the world that come to view these treasures. Yet, because Peterson educated, entertained and enriched the lives of people everywhere, these deserve greater and more widespread exposure through exhibition at museums and the other cultural venues nationwide.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the enduring Peterson who continues to enable millions of people to come to know and appreciate the value of nature and recognize the wellbeing of people and the natural world are one and the same. This deep, profound legacy deserves to be celebrated on the 100th anniversary of his birth, and is the reason why it is appropriate and necessary to celebrate Peterson's lifework and legacy.

THE DAILY 45: YOUNG ALONZO ROBERTSON DIES ON VACATION IN D.C.

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Chicago is but one of several American cities that are struggling through an escalating wave of gun-related violence this summer.

Last weekend, in a scene reminiscent of a military checkpoint in Iraq, police had to cordon off the streets of the Trinidad section of Washington, D.C. This was in response to a series of shootings and stabbings that left at least 11 people wounded and two people dead. Among the gunshot victims was 13-year-old Alonzo Robertson, a young boy who was vacationing with family and friends when he was murdered.

As police continue to investigate Alonzo's senseless death, I not only grieve this child's loss but I mourn the violation of a sense of community of the people who live in the Trinidad neighborhood. Just last month, area residents had to wade through a police checkpoint that, for a brief time, stopped the violence.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say 'enough is enough, stop the killing!'

TRIBUTE TO TOMMIE ANN GIBNEY

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a fine outstanding citizen, Tommie Ann Gibney.

Ms. Gibney is a shining example of a woman who tries hard and succeeds brilliantly. She does it all. She is a professional, a distinguished attorney, friend of many, wife, mother, and last month Ms. Gibney was able to add the title of President. She is one of only three women to ever hold the prestigious position as President of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America/New Jersey, an organization of over 2100 attorneys, paralegals, law clerks and law school graduates who protect New Jersey families by advocating for safer products and workplaces, a cleaner environment, and quality health care.

Ms. Gibney attended Seton Hall University for her undergraduate, graduate and law school degrees. As an associate at Andres and Berger in Haddonfield, New Jersey Ms. Gibney fights tirelessly for victims of nursing home abuse and neglect. She volunteers her services and vast legal knowledge to Trial Lawyers Care, 9/11 Legal Assistance and to the Hyacinth Aids Foundation. She is a role model for all law professionals both in and outside of the courtroom.

My congratulations to Tommie Ann Gibney and her family.

RECOGNIZING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S ILLEGAL INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, tonight I join my colleagues on the House floor to commemorate the 34th anniversary of Turkey's illegal occupation of Cyprus.

On July 20th 1974, Turkey began its brutal invasion of Cyprus, which forced nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots to flee their homes—making one-third of the Cypriot population refugees in their own country.

Today, Turkey occupies the northern third of the island. It is one of the most militarized areas in the world, with more than 43,000 Turkish soldiers trying to maintain the status quo of the illegal occupation. Forty-three thousand soldiers may not sound like a lot, but consider that there is almost one Turkish soldier for every two Turkish Cypriots.

When Cypriots were forced to flee their homes 34 years ago, a large number of their properties were unlawfully distributed to tens of thousands of illegal settlers from Turkey. Today, 34 years later, Greek Cypriots, who continue to own these properties, are prevented by Turkey from returning and enjoying their homes and properties. Included amongst

this number are approximately 5,000 Cypriot-Americans who own property in the occupied area but who have no legal recourse.

This is an outrage. Since Cypriot-Americans cannot return to their illegally-seized property, I believe they should be allowed to seek financial remedies with either the current inhabitants of their land or the Turkish government itself.

Last year, I introduced the bipartisan American Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act. Through this legislation, Americans who are being denied access to their property and even their ancestral homes will finally be able to seek restitution.

Specifically, it authorizes the president to initiate a claims program under which the claims of U.S. nationals who Turkey has excluded from their property can be judged before the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission. If this commission determined that Cypriot-Americans should be compensated for their property, negotiations would then take place between the U.S. and Turkey to determine the proper compensation.

My legislation would also empower U.S. district court to hear causes of action against either the individuals who now occupy those properties or the Turkish government.

The U.S. Government must not idly stand by and refuse 5,000 of its citizens any legal recourse to address the grave injustices committed by the Turkish government. For 34 years, these Americans have been separated from their homes and their businesses. It is time Congress vindicate the property rights of U.S. citizens in Cyprus.

While we commemorate the 34th anniversary of this illegal occupation, it is also important to recognize the progress that is being made on the island and some encouraging signs that we all hope lead to a united Cyprus one day soon.

Working Groups and Technical Committees have been set up by Cypriot President Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Talat to build the framework for possible substantive negotiations between the two leaders down the line.

The two leaders have also met—once in May and then again at the beginning of this month—to discuss the progress that the Groups and Committees are making. They will also meet this Friday to conduct a final review of the work that has been completed to date.

Another hopeful sign is the integration that continues to take place between Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots as a result of the nearly 13 million crossings along the cease fire line that have occurred over the last five years. Over the last three years, Turkish Cypriot incomes have more than doubled, and more than 60,000 Turkish Cypriots have received Cypriot passports, which will allow them to travel freely in any E-U country.

Madam Speaker, as we commemorate the 34th Anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus, we are hopeful that these recent developments will finally produce something all Cypriots have waited 34 years to see—a united Cyprus.